

land, Delaware, Maryland, Idaho, Montana and Nevada.

This shows that the States certain to go Democratic have 151 votes, certain to go Republican 203 votes, while the doubtful States have a voting strength of 122.

* * *

Claims of the Democratic Managers.

This concluding paragraph from our Washington dispatch sums up the situation at this time pretty accurately: "Of the doubtful States, the Democrats are boldly claiming New York. They go further and say that, taking the Cleveland campaigns as bases, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware, Maryland and West Virginia have an unalterable habit of voting with New York. The States thus claimed carry with them 80 electoral votes. These added to the 151 votes from the solid South, would give the Democratic nominee 231 of the 239 votes necessary to a choice. The silver States of Colorado, Montana, Idaho and Nevada, with their aggregate of 14 electoral votes, are claimed by the Republicans, although they have been in the Democratic column for the past two Presidential elections. Judge Parker would have to carry three of these, in addition to all claimed for him in the East, in order to be elected. The Democratic managers, however, are looking to either Indiana or Wisconsin, and not to the silver States, to furnish the necessary votes."

At this time it must be admitted by all unprejudiced men that Mr. Roosevelt has the better chance of winning. There are indications, however, of impending labor and financial troubles, and these would weaken his forces. Much, too, depends upon the tone of Judge Parker's letter of acceptance, and no less upon the selection of a Democratic chairman. This chairmanship matter is now in a wretched muddle. It is customary for the Presidential candidate to select his own chairman, whereas the committee has embarrassed Judge Parker by recommending Thomas Taggart, of Indiana, for the position. It is intimated that the Sage of Esopus prefers Senator Gorman, who is one of the shrewdest politicians in the country, or August Belmont, whose high position in the world of finance would mean much in accumulating a great campaign fund.

STAR ROUTE CARRIERS MUST DELIVER MAIL TO PATRONS WHO PUT UP BOXES.

A Western North Carolina reader of The Progressive Farmer writes as follows:

"I should like for you to inform me if mail carriers not on R. F. D. lines are required by law to deposit the mail in letter boxes placed conveniently so the mail boy will not have trouble in depositing the mail, etc. I have a home-made wooden box for my mail, but I pay the mail deliverer so much per month."

Under the old law, star route carriers were not required to serve patrons in the manner indicated by our correspondent, but Postmaster Bailey at Raleigh informs us that any person living along a star route may now have his mail delivered to him daily and without charge, just as if he were on a rural mail delivery route. The following is the law on the subject as embodied in each contract made with a star route carrier:

"Any person living on or near the star route herein described, and not within the corporate limits of any town or within eighty rods of any postoffice, who desires his mail deposited at a given point on the line of the route by the carrier on said route, may provide and erect a suitable box or crane on the roadside, located in such manner as to be reached as conveniently as practicable by the carrier without dismounting from the vehicle or horse, and such person shall file with the postmaster at the postoffice to which his mail is addressed (which shall be one of the two postoffices on the route on either side of and next to the box or crane) a request in writing for the

the delivery of his mail to the carrier on the route for deposit at the designated point, at the risk of the addressee. When a mail bag or satchel is used it, as well as the box or crane, must be provided by the person for whose use it is intended, without expense to the Department.

"It shall be the duty of the postmaster at every such postoffice, upon a written order from any person living on or near the star route to deliver to the mail carrier any mail matter—placing in the respective satchels, where such are used, the mail for the persons to whom such satchels belong—with instructions as to the proper mail box or crane at which said mail matter shall be deposited; but registered mail shall not be so delivered unless expressly requested by the addressee in his written order. No mail matter so delivered to a carrier shall be carried past another postoffice on the route before being deposited into a mail box or hung on a crane or post.

"The carrier on the star route will be required to receive from any postmaster on the route any mail matter or private mail satchel that may be intrusted to him, outside of the usual mail bag, and shall carry mail matter or private mail satchel to and deposit it into the proper mail box or hang it on the proper mail crane placed on the line of the route for this purpose; also to collect the mail from the boxes (when a signal is displayed to indicate that a box contains mail to be taken) and to deposit the same in the next postoffice at which he arrives; and to take the mail satchel, where one is used, either with or without mail from the mail crane or post and carry it to the postoffice; such service by the carrier to be without charge to the persons sending or receiving the mail.

"The Department does not prescribe any particular design of box or satchel to be used for this service, but the person providing either should see that it is of such character as to afford ample protection to his mail. The box or crane should be so located on the roadside that the carrier can deposit the mail without leaving his vehicle or horse, and yet not where it will obstruct public travel.

"A patron desiring the collection of mail from his box should inform the carrier of the signal adopted by which the presence of mail in the box for collection will be indicated. The law provides that every carrier of the mail shall receive mail matter presented to him if properly prepaid by stamps, and deliver the same for mailing at the next postoffice at which he arrives, but that no fees shall be allowed him therefor.

"Delivery and collection of mail by star-route carriers will not be permitted over such portions of the star routes as may have in operation the rural free delivery service, except as an additional or supplemental service when shown to be necessary and practicable."

GO TO THE FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

July 19.—Troy, Montgomery.
July 20.—Asheboro, Randolph.
July 21.—Concord, Cabarrus.
July 22.—Shelby, Cleveland.
July 23.—Rutherfordton, Rutherford.
July 25.—Marion, McDowell.
July 26.—Morganton, Burke.
July 27.—Granite Falls, Caldwell.
July 28.—Dixie, Mecklenburg.
July 29.—Hopewell, Mecklenburg.
July 27 and 28.—Monroe, Union.

We trust that our readers who have sent us inquiries to be answered will bear with us patiently for awhile. Dr. Burkett is overwhelmed with work at the A. & M. College Summer School for Teachers, and Prof. Kilgore, on account of his recent illness, has found it necessary to go to Virginia Beach to rest and recuperate. The Editor-in-chief has done practically every kind of farm work, but he is not an agricultural scientist, and prefers to have the agricultural editors attend to the farming problems presented. We especially regret that Prof. Kilgore cannot attend the summer farmers' institutes as he had expected to do.

"Aunt Jennie" gives on page 7 this week the first chapter of a remarkably interesting story of a North Carolina pioneer woman. This is the best and last of the series of three such stories she has condensed and rewritten for our columns.

It has required a good deal of labor to get together the figures embodied in our editorial, "The Prosperity of Southern Agriculture," on page 1. It will doubtless surprise most people to know that while for the United States as a whole, agriculture in 1899 paid a net dividend of only 16.2 per cent, North Carolina farming paid 29.6 per cent on the investment.

There was a slight error in our last week's report of the ballot for Presidential candidates in the Democratic Convention. Before the change of nine votes, giving Parker the necessary two-thirds, the ballot stood as follows: Parker, 658; Hearst, 204; Cockrell, 42; Olney, 38; Wall, 27; Gray, 8; Williams, 8; McClellan, 3; Miles, 3; Towne, 2; Gorman, 2; Pattison, 4; Coler, 1—total, 1,000.

Hardly anything else makes us so tired as to pick up an alleged "Southern Edition" of a farm paper when the postoffice entry—printed in an inconspicuous place and in the smallest type obtainable—proves it a Massachusetts or New York product. These papers usually print a little Southern matter on the first page to catch suckers, while the bulk of the matter comes from the latitude of Canada and Maine—from men who probably never saw a stalk of cotton or entered a Southern State. These trashy farm papers unfortunately do a great deal toward bringing all kinds of agricultural literature into contempt.

"The Hit of the Season."

The article by John Charles McNeill in last week's Progressive Farmer on "Swimming" is the hit of the season. John Charles owed that letter to Charity and Children but Poe took the advantage of us and got it.—Charity and Children.

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When the public is gloating over John Charles' "Swimming" article, it should be borne in mind that it is a Lumber River scene depicted. Charles didn't have to draw on his imagination—it was a commingling of experiences at the Riverton swimming place.—Lumberton Argus.

A Paper is Known By Its Advertisers.

When a sample copy of any publication comes to my farm home, and is a possible candidate for my hard-earned dollars, I can size it up more quickly by scanning the advertising pages than by looking over the reading matter. The editor may pose as an apostle of the true faith—economic, agricultural, religious or Rooseveltian—but the advertising manager is the man who gives character to the publication. He stamps it with an index finger that shows to just what power it has been raised. If the advertisements are straight, then the subscription list has been made up from sensible folks and an honest class of merchants are asking for their patronage. If, on the other hand, there is much advertising by knaves, frauds and indecent folk, I know that a lot of fools are reading the paper, and that, on the average, the paper is made to please fools. Not wanting to make any admissions, I do not subscribe.—Alva Agee.

July.

Beneath the full midsummer heat
Are stores of golden, garnered wheat;
Are billows of unripe oats, gray-green;
Are armies of corn-blades, trenchant, keen.
The kildee flutes his mournful cries;
The hawk in charmed circle flies.
Berries ripen beneath the leaves,
The moon shines bright in the cloudless sky.
The crickets sing and the soft winds sigh.
—Sara Andrew Shafer, in The Outlook.